

AGENDA

"NATURAL GAS OUTLOOK AND CONSUMER PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE"

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**1000 Center Street
Little Rock, Arkansas**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

8:00 am - 8:30 am

Registration and Breakfast Refreshments

8:30 am - 9:30

**National Natural Gas Supply and Price Winter Outlook
for 2004-2005**

The speaker will address the national factors and markets that impact natural gas pricing, supply, and demand. Key questions that will be addressed include:

- What will the average national gas price and regional natural gas prices be this coming winter?
- What changes are taking place at the federal level that will have an impact on gas production and availability?
- What are the primary issues impacting the supply and demand for natural gas?
- Will the introduction of new LNG supplies significantly change the supply/price outlook?
- What is the longer-term outlook (i.e., next several years) for natural gas?

Speaker: Rebecca Followill, Research Analyst (confirmed), with
Howard Weil

9:30 - 10:30 am

**The Arkansas Natural Gas Supply and Price Winter Outlook for
2004-2005**

Factors that impact the LDC supply and price of natural gas for Arkansas customers:

- Prices - A forecast of what customers can expect to pay for natural gas this winter.
- Weather - A look at last winter and whether a normal, warmer, or colder winter is expected this heating season.
- Demand - Factors affecting the demand for natural gas including the increased use for electric generation.
- Storage Gas - The status of efforts to fill storage facilities and

- the impact on gas prices.
- Exploration and Drilling - The status of exploration and drilling activities and the current natural gas rig count and outlook.
- LDC Procurement Plans for the coming winter.

Panel Moderator: Ken Costello, Senior Economist (confirmed), with
National Regulatory Research Institute

Panelists:

1. Bruce Coogler, Director of Gas Supply and Transportation (confirmed), *CenterPoint Energy Arkla*
2. Alan N. Stewart, Executive Vice President (confirmed), *Arkansas Western Gas Company*
3. Michael J. Callan, Vice President-General Counsel (confirmed), *Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation*

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am - 12:00 noon

What Can Utility Policy Makers and Utility Customers Do to Respond to Higher Natural Gas Prices?

The panel will discuss the issues and actions that stakeholders can take to address the impact of higher gas prices including:

- Energy Demand Response Programs
- Energy Conservation/Weatherization
- Efficiency Standards and Performance Standards

Panel Moderator: Ken Costello, Senior Economist (confirmed), with *National Regulatory Research Institute*

Panelists:

1. Richard Sedano (confirmed), *The Regulatory Assistance Project*
2. Chris Benson, Director (confirmed), *Arkansas Energy Office*
3. Larry Palmer (confirmed), *Arkansas Weatherization Assistance Program*

12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

Lunch (On Your Own)

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Utility Customer Assistance Programs and Services

This panel will address specific actions that customers can take to assist them in paying and stabilizing their monthly gas utility bills including:

- Financial Assistance Programs that are available to help customers with their heating bills.
- Utility bill payment options such as levelized billing and average payment plans.
- Services and help offered by the APSC's Consumer Services Section.

Panel Moderator: Richard Sedano, (confirmed) with *Regulatory Assistance Program*

Panelists:

1. Cathy Rowe (confirmed), *Home Energy Assistance Program, Arkansas Department of Human Services*
2. Kelly D. Lassiter (confirmed), Manager of Regulatory Affairs, *CenterPoint Energy Arkla*
3. Holly Tubbs, Manager (confirmed), *APSC Consumer Services*

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Innovative Legislative Energy Policies and Programs

This panel will review some of the innovative energy legislation that has been enacted in other states including:

- Energy Efficiency Code and Standards
- New Vehicle Technology
- Tax Credits for Energy Efficient Purchases
- Energy Efficiency for School Buildings
- Integration of Energy and Environmental Policies

Panelists:

1. Jerry Oppenheim (confirmed), with *Democracy and Regulation*
2. Kenneth J. Nemeth (confirmed), Executive Director, *Southern States Energy Board*